

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (original) A method for extinguishing a fire occurring in a petroleum or petroleum-based product and caused by vapors released by said product, comprising applying to said fire and said product a composition comprising:

(a) a nonionic primary surfactant comprising an ethoxylated sorbitol oleate;

(b) a nonionic secondary surfactant selected from the group consisting of linear ethoxylated secondary alcohols, polyoxyethylene ethers, ethoxylated sorbitan monolaurates, ethoxylated fatty acid amides and ethoxylated fatty acids and containing about 7 moles to about 26 moles of ethylene oxide and comprising from about 20 to about 36 weight percent of said composition, and wherein said nonionic secondary surfactant is capable of stabilizing and solubilizing said nonionic primary surfactant such that said composition has a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance between about 12.0 and about 13.5; and

(c) water;

wherein said composition arrests said vapors released by the product, thereby extinguishing the fire.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the product is spilled petroleum oil and/or fuel.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the primary surfactant is ethoxylated sorbitol septaoleate.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the secondary surfactant has a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance of from about 10 to about 17.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an emulsion-stabilizing agent.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a polyethylene glycol component having a molecular weight of from about 200 to about 400.

7-20. canceled

21. (original) A method for suppressing production of methane and/or ammonia vapors by a petroleum or petroleum-based product or other material undergoing degradation or decay and releasing methane and/or ammonia vapors, comprising applying to said product or material a composition comprising:

(a) a nonionic primary surfactant comprising an ethoxylated sorbitol oleate;

(b) a nonionic secondary surfactant selected from the group consisting of linear ethoxylated secondary alcohols, polyoxyethylene ethers, ethoxylated sorbitan monolaurates, ethoxylated fatty acid amides and ethoxylated fatty acids and containing about 7 moles to about 26 moles of ethylene oxide and comprising from about 20 to about 36 weight percent of said composition, and wherein said nonionic secondary surfactant is capable of stabilizing and solubilizing said nonionic primary surfactant such that said composition has a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance between about 12.0 and about 13.5; and

(c) water.

22. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the product or material is a spilled petroleum or petroleum-based product.

23. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the material is compost.

24. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the product or material is disposed in a landfill.

25. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the primary surfactant is ethoxylated sorbitol septaoleate.

26. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the secondary surfactant has a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance of from about 10 to about 17.

27. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the composition further comprises an emulsion-stabilizing agent.

28. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the composition further comprises a polyethylene glycol component having a molecular weight of from about 200 to about 400.